

09/677,476

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July 9, 2004
Date

Ellen Huffman
Ellen Huffman

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JUL 19 2004

Technology Center 2100

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Applicants: Ripley, et al. | Art Unit: 2171 |
| Application No.: 09/677,476 | Examiner: Patrick Santos |
| Filed: 10/02/2000 | Attorney Docket No.: 800433 |
| Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR VISUALLY REPRESENTING HIERARCHICAL DATABASE OBJECTS AND THEIR SIMILARITY RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER OBJECTS IN THE DATABASE | |

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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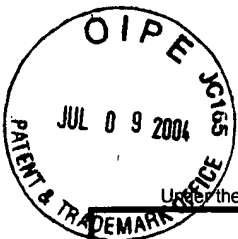
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.111**Introductory Comments**

Dear Sir:

The Applicants thank the Office for the careful consideration given the application in the communication of April 9, 2004. Applicants have amended claims 1-4, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-19 to further distinguish Applicants' claimed invention and to enable allowance of these claims.

Applicants have added new claims 20-25 and submitted formal substitute drawings in an enclosed communication. The Applicants believe that the claims, as amended, define over the references cited in the Office Action of April 9, 2004. Applicants contend that the cited references neither structurally nor more generally, suggest the claimed subject matter of

Applicants' claimed invention. Contrary to the Office's assertion of obviousness, all elements of Applicants' claims, as amended, are not disclosed in the cited references of Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,594,673) in view of Wheeler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,618,727). Therefore, the rejections are unsupported by the art and should be withdrawn. Applicants request reconsideration and examination of the application in view of the following amendments and discussion.



7-12-04

41 2171 \$

PTO/SB/21 (04-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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| | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number | 09/677476 | RECEIVED JUL 19 2004 Technology Center 2100 |
| | Filing Date | Oct 2, 2000 | |
| | First Named Inventor | Ripley, John R. | |
| | Art Unit | 2171 | |
| | Examiner Name | Patrick Santos | |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | 63 | Attorney Docket Number | 800433 |

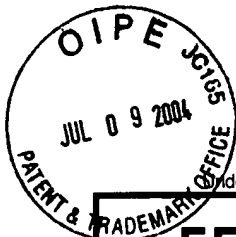
| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund | -- postcard receipt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | Remarks | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | | |

| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Firm or Individual name | Taylor Russell & Russell, P.C. |
| Signature | Douglas D. Russell |
| Date | July 9, 2004 |

| CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING | | | |
|---|---------------|------|--------------|
| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below. | | | |
| Typed or printed name | Ellen Huffman | | |
| Signature | Ellen Huffman | Date | July 9, 2004 |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PTO/SB/17 (10-03)

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2003. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☒ Applicant Claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)**54.****Complete if Known**

Application Number 09/677476

Filing Date 10/2/2000

First Named Inventor Ripley, et al.

Examiner Name Patrick Santos

Art Unit 2171

Attorney Docket No. 800433

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JUL 19 2004

Technology Center 200

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)☐ Check ☒ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None☐ Deposit AccountDeposit Account Number
Deposit Account Name

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☐ Credit any overpayments☐ Charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s)☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

| Large Entity Fee Code | Large Entity Fee (\$) | Small Entity Fee Code | Small Entity Fee (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------|
| 1001 | 770 | 2001 | 385 | Utility filing fee | |
| 1002 | 340 | 2002 | 170 | Design filing fee | |
| 1003 | 530 | 2003 | 265 | Plant filing fee | |
| 1004 | 770 | 2004 | 385 | Reissue filing fee | |
| 1005 | 160 | 2005 | 80 | Provisional filing fee | |

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)**0****2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE**

| Total Claims | Extra Claims | Fee from below | Fee Paid |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|----------|
| Independent Claims | -20**= 6 | x 9 | = 54 |
| Multiple Dependent Claims | -3**= | x | = |

| Large Entity Fee Code | Large Entity Fee (\$) | Small Entity Fee Code | Small Entity Fee (\$) | Fee Description |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1202 | 18 | 2202 | 9 | Claims in excess of 20 |
| 1201 | 86 | 2201 | 43 | Independent claims in excess of 3 |
| 1203 | 290 | 2203 | 145 | Multiple dependent claim, if not paid |
| 1204 | 86 | 2204 | 43 | **Reissue independent claims over original patent |
| 1205 | 18 | 2205 | 9 | **Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent |

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$)**54.**

** or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

| Large Entity Fee Code | Large Entity Fee (\$) | Small Entity Fee Code | Small Entity Fee (\$) | Fee Description | Fee Paid |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|----------|
| 1051 | 130 | 2051 | 65 | Surcharge - late filing fee or oath | |
| 1052 | 50 | 2052 | 25 | Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet | |
| 1053 | 130 | 1053 | 130 | Non-English specification | |
| 1812 | 2,520 | 1812 | 2,520 | For filing a request for ex parte reexamination | |
| 1804 | 920* | 1804 | 920* | Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action | |
| 1805 | 1,840* | 1805 | 1,840* | Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action | |
| 1251 | 110 | 2251 | 55 | Extension for reply within first month | |
| 1252 | 420 | 2252 | 210 | Extension for reply within second month | |
| 1253 | 950 | 2253 | 475 | Extension for reply within third month | |
| 1254 | 1,480 | 2254 | 740 | Extension for reply within fourth month | |
| 1255 | 2,010 | 2255 | 1,005 | Extension for reply within fifth month | |
| 1401 | 330 | 2401 | 165 | Notice of Appeal | |
| 1402 | 330 | 2402 | 165 | Filing a brief in support of an appeal | |
| 1403 | 290 | 2403 | 145 | Request for oral hearing | |
| 1451 | 1,510 | 1451 | 1,510 | Petition to institute a public use proceeding | |
| 1452 | 110 | 2452 | 55 | Petition to revive - unavoidable | |
| 1453 | 1,330 | 2453 | 665 | Petition to revive - unintentional | |
| 1501 | 1,330 | 2501 | 665 | Utility issue fee (or reissue) | |
| 1502 | 480 | 2502 | 240 | Design issue fee | |
| 1503 | 640 | 2503 | 320 | Plant issue fee | |
| 1460 | 130 | 1460 | 130 | Petitions to the Commissioner | |
| 1807 | 50 | 1807 | 50 | Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q) | |
| 1806 | 180 | 1806 | 180 | Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt | |
| 8021 | 40 | 8021 | 40 | Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) | |
| 1809 | 770 | 2809 | 385 | Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a)) | |
| 1810 | 770 | 2810 | 385 | For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b)) | |
| 1801 | 770 | 2801 | 385 | Request for Continued Examination (RCE) | |
| 1802 | 900 | 1802 | 900 | Request for expedited examination of a design application | |

Other fee (specify)

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)**0****SUBMITTED BY**

Complete (if applicable)

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Douglas D. Russell | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 40152 | Telephone | 512-338-4601 |
| Signature | <i>Douglas D. Russell</i> | Date | July 9, 2004 | | |

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